

TEACHER EMPOWERMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1995) to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to empower teachers, improve student achievement through high-quality professional development for teachers, reauthorize the Reading Excellence Act, and for other purposes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, the problems with H.R. 1995 are abundant in nature, however, one of its greatest flaws deals with the lack of language about the school counselors of this country. H.R. 1995 eliminates over one million personnel from eligibility for professional development under Title II of ESEA. Without the assistance of other school personnel, undue burdens and demands will be placed on teachers. TEA will actually increase, not decrease, the workload and responsibilities of teachers. H.R. 1995 decreases local flexibility to train and hire needed school personnel—America's schools need school counselors, the recent school shootings remind us that students have needs that must be served by qualified counseling professionals. H.R. 1995 eliminates pupil services from eligibility for professional development by completely rewriting title II of ESEA. H.R. 1995 limits students with disabilities access to education—by eliminating professional development for pupil services, school staff will be unprepared to meet the special needs of students with disabilities. These are just a few of the shortcomings with H.R. 1995, if we are in this for the children, how can we simply sit back passively and allow such grossly inadequate legislation which blatantly ignores those who fight so hard for the welfare of our children—school counselors.

IRAN NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION
PREVENTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1477, the Iran Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1999, of which I am an original co-sponsor. This provision, which passed the House of Representatives in the 105th Congress by an overwhelming margin, would ensure that we hold the International Atomic Energy Agency accountable for its programs in Iran, and would reinforce our commitment to peace and stability in the Persian Gulf.

Despite its plentiful oil and gas resources, Iran has sought for years to complete the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant on its Persian Gulf coast. Iran is a notorious sponsor of international terrorism, and as such its plans to utilize nuclear energy should not go unchecked by the United States and our allies. I have little faith that a nation which thinks nothing of

murdering innocent civilians and of rounding up innocent Jews and throwing them into jail on trumped-up charges possesses the commitment to safety that would prevent such a reactor from being a threat to the entire Gulf region, if not the world.

The November 1998 pact between Iran and Russia to expedite the construction at Bushehr is illustrative of the urgency of this threat. As a nation, we need to pay close attention to the progression of this project, and we should ensure that we do not contribute to Iran's acquisition of technology or expertise during the course of this project which could contribute to its procurement of nuclear weapons know-how.

As Iran continues to build its military arsenal—testing engines for ballistic missiles capable of carrying warheads to Israel and other nations in the region, we should make sure that our money—both directly and indirectly—does not help Iran's conquest of nuclear technology. This measure, which would withhold assistance to the IAEA pending certain State Department certifications, is a necessary step toward that goal. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

BRENT BAUKNECHT ACHIEVES
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brent Bauknecht for his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout.

Eagle Scout is the highest honor that a Boy Scout can earn. This high honor requires years of dedication and hard work both to himself and most importantly, the community.

Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges including First Aid; Camping; Citizenship of the Community; Citizenship of the Nation; Citizenship of the World; Family Life; and Personal Management. In addition, each Eagle Scout must plan, finance, and execute a service project that benefits the community. Furthermore, each Eagle Scout must hold a variety of leadership positions in which he gains important life skills that will always remain with him.

Brent has accomplished this and more. He has proven himself to be an exceptional young man by living by the Scout Law; Scout Oath; Scout Motto; and Scout Promise. Only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve the Eagle Badge, and this accomplishment is a true testament to Brent's abilities, dedication, and commitment.

I ask you to please join me in congratulating Brent for his achievement and outstanding work.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN AND SHARON
TRAVIS**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dean and Sharon Travis of Gratiot

County, Michigan, who will be honored at a special ceremony in Midland on July 24 when they will be presented with a Centennial Farm marker by Consumers Energy.

At this celebration, the Travis family and other farm families will have the opportunity to share their stories. The Travis family will relay with appropriate pride how their farm, located in Pine River Township, was purchased by their great-great-grandfather in 1857 and has remained in their family ever since.

The festivities are being held in conjunction with a special Smithsonian Institution exhibit, "Barn Again: Celebrating an American Icon." This exhibit celebrates America's rich agricultural heritage, telling the story of farmers and their varying needs throughout our history.

The barn represents growth and prosperity of Americans, and it is important to recognize the agricultural community's contribution to our nation. This year the exhibit tours Michigan for the first time; residents of Alabama, Illinois, Oregon, Utah, Ohio, Missouri, West Virginia and Georgia have already been privileged to see it.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the Travis family today. Their success has been a source of pride to Gratiot County, and their barn and Centennial Farm designation symbolize the hard work and determination that is characteristic of mid-Michigan's farm families.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to honor them today in the U.S. House of Representatives and I wish them many more generations of bounty.

ELECTRIC BICYCLE LEGISLATION

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a bipartisan, non-controversial, and much-needed piece of legislation. This bill will clarify for purposes of Federal law and regulations that electric bicycles are consumer products and not motor vehicles. This clarification is necessary, as the interpretation of existing law is that electric bicycles are motor vehicles and must conform to all motor vehicle safety standards.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to clarify what an electric bicycle is. An electric bicycle is defined as a bike with all the same features of a conventional bike save one. It carries a small electric motor system that, when engaged by the flip of a switch, augments the power of the rider. This motor empowers the rider to easily pedal speeds up to, but not over, 20 mph.

Because of this feature, electric bicycles are very popular with recreational riders, seniors, commuters, fitness riders, and police and other law enforcement agencies, just to name a few. These bicycles have the potential to mitigate traffic congestion and parking problems, enhance law enforcement agencies' ability to perform certain designated duties; reduce air and noise pollution; promote cost-effective alternative-fuel vehicles; and enhance mobility for those who are physically unable either to drive or access essential services on pedal-only bicycles. In fact, in Southern California, electric bicycles have already begun to demonstrate their significant contribution to improving the quality of life for all.